

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 OMB-01 AID-20

NIC-01 FRB-03 CIEP-03 EB-11 /180 W

----- 076376

R 020856Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3707

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JA XA PU

SUBJ: JAPAN RECOGNIZES GUINEA-BISSAU

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REF: A. TOKYO 14263 B. TOKYO 8095 C. USUN 2695

SUMMARY: GOJ ANNOUNCED RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU AUGUST 1. FONOFF INFORMED EMBASSY THAT DECISION BASED ON JAPAN'S DESIRE TO IMPROVE IMAGE AND RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN NATIONS, USING FOLLOWING RATIONALE: GUINEA-BISSAU DECLARED INDEPENDENCE NEARLY YEAR AGO, IS RECOGNIZED BY 84 NATIONS, IS MEMBER OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND IS EXPECTED TO BE ADMITTED TO UN DURING NEXT UNGA SESSION. FONOFF DOES NOT CONSIDER ACTION VIOLATES ITS STANDARD RECOGNITION REQUIREMENTS, BUT WE SEE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR JAPAN'S POLICY TOWARD OTHER INSURGENT GROUPS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING OUR RECEIPT REF B AND BEFORE SUBSEQUENTLY SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT, FONOFF AFRICA DIV DIRECTOR KUROKOCHI CALLED EVENING AUGUST 1 TO INFORM EMBASSY THAT GOJ WOULD ANNOUNCE RECOGNITION OF GUINEA-BISSAU (GB) SAME EVENING. DURING CALL ON KUROKOCHI AUGUST 2, EMBOFF EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT UNEXPECTED GOJ DECISION AND REQUESTED RATIONALE TO REPORT TO WASHINGTON.

2. KUROKOCHI SAID DECISION WAS BASED ON DESIRE TO IMPROVE JAPAN'S IMAGE AND RELATIONS WITH AFRICAN NATIONS. DESPITE JAPAN'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH WEO AND US, ACCORDING TO KUROKOCHI, JAPAN IS ALSO MEMBER OF AFRO-ASIAN GROUP. RECOGNITION OF GB WAS EXPRESSION OF EMPATHY AND SENSITIVITY TO FELLOW AA NATIONS. RATIONALE AS FOLLOWS: GB DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE ALMOST YEAR AGO, IS MEMBER OF OAU AND UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES (WHO) AND IS EXPECTED TO BE ADMITTED TO UN AT FORTHCOMING UNGA SESSION. PROBED, KUROKOCHI CONTENTED DEFENSIVELY THAT JAPAN'S STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR RECOGNITION HAD NOT BEEN VIOLATED, SINCE, IN HIS WORDS, GB FORCES EXISTED EVEN IN CITY OF BISSAU AND VIRTUALLY CONTROLLED MOST OF THE COUNTRYSIDE". GB FORCES WERE ADVANCING AND PORTUGUESE WITHDRAWING. FINALLY, PORTUGAL ITSELF INDICATES THAT GB WILL BE GRANTED INDEPENDENCE SOON, ACCORDING TO KUROKOCHI, PERHAPS WITHIN TWO WEEKS. AS COUP DE GRACE, KUROKOCHI NOTED THAT WEO WERE REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO RECOGNIZE GB IMMEDIATELY AFTER PORTUGAL AGREED TO INDEPENDENCE, AND JAPAN WANTED TO

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PRECEDE EUROPEANS AS SPECIAL GESTURE TO AFRO-ASIANS. TALKS WITH GB REPS WERE CONDUCTED IN NEW YORK.

3. KUROKOCHI PROMISED NOT TO SURPRISE US WITH RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA OR MOZAMBIQUE. HE CLAIMED SITUATIONS WERE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT. IN GB, OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP WAS CENTRALIZED IN PAIGC, WHILE IN ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE OPPOSITION TO PORTUGUESE IS BADLY FACTIONALIZED.

4. AS ANOTHER GESTURE TO AFRICANS, KUROKOCHI EXPLAINED THAT FONMIN KIMURA, LIKE FORMER FONMIN OHIRA, STILL PLANS TO VISIT AFRICA BUT SCHEDULING IS DELAYED UNTIL KIMURA DECIDES WHEN HE WANTS TO GO. VISIT COULD OCCUR LATER THIS YEAR OR NEXT YEAR.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE KUROKOCHI'S ASSERTIONS, FONOFF HAS BENT ITS OWN STANDARD CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION TO SATISFY PRAGMATIC CONSIDERATIONS OF RELATIONS WITH AFRICANS AND ACCESS TO AFRICAN RESOURCES. GUINEA-BISSAU QUESTION ASIDE, FONOFF HAS SET PRECEDENT WITH POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR OTHER AREAS, NOTABLY SE ASIA. FACT THAT RATIONALE PRIMARILY BASED ON INTERNATIONAL STATUS OF GB, PARTICULARLY ITS STATUS WITH UN, CLEARLY HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR GOJ RELATIONS WITH SUCH GOVERNMENTS AS KHMER REPUBLIC. WE WILL PROBE ASIAN BUREAU AND ELSEWHERE TO TRY TO DETERMINE ANY LIKELY IMPACT. WE ARE ALSO DISAPPOINTED THAT JAPANESE WOULD CHOOSE TO INFORM US SO BELATEDLY, DESPITE FACT THAT ISSUE HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED REGULARLY WITH FONOFF. IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS WE PLAN TO EXPRESS THIS DISAPPOINTMENT AT HIGHER LEVELS OF FONOFF, KUROKOCHI ASKED EMBOFF TO PASS ON ANY REACTION FROM AFRICANS. EMBOFF ADDED THAT WHEN RECEIVED WE WOULD ALSO PASS ON WASHINGTON'S REACTION.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, GUINEA-BISSAU
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO10097
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740210-0997
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740876/aaaacntt.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. TOKYO 14263 B. TOKYO 8095 C. USUN
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JAPAN RECOGNIZES GUINEA-BISSAU CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PFOR, JA, XA, PU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005